

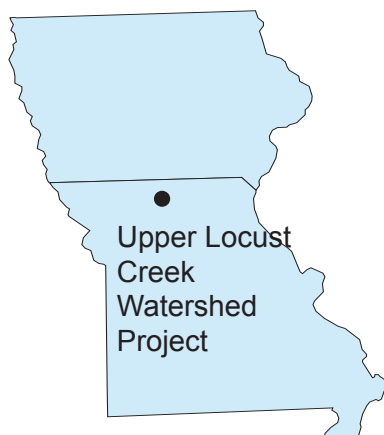
## Watershed Operations

August 2009

## Investing in the Upper Locust Creek Watershed, Missouri

### Introduction

Funding for this watershed project will construct 10 small flood control structures.



Upper Locust Creek Watershed is located in Putnam and Sullivan Counties in Missouri and extends into Iowa.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Putnam and Sullivan Counties (Missouri), 6th Congressional District; Wayne and Appanoose Counties (Iowa), 2nd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$950,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$3,000

The Upper Locust Creek Watershed Project consists of practices to reduce cropland soil erosion and construction of a series of flood control dams. To date, 81 of the planned 297 flood control structures have been completed or are under construction in Missouri.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Locust Creek Watershed District
- Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Putnam County Commission
- Sullivan County Commission

### Benefits

This project will have a major environmental benefit on the watershed problems of soil erosion and floodwater damage. The entire watershed plan is estimated to reduce floodwater damage on 29,600 acres, protect streams and wetlands from degrading, improve water quality, and provide beneficial effects on the quality and extent of wildlife habitat.



This newly completed flood control dam is one of the 297 planned structures in the watershed. The plan for this watershed is to reduce flood damage to 29,600 acres.

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## Investing in the Upper Locust Creek Watershed, Missouri

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### Economic Opportunities

Once completed, this project will provide \$2.8 million in average annual benefits in Missouri. Project funding will provide additional environmental benefits and contracts available immediately for the local construction industry and associated businesses creating or saving jobs in the area.

### Statewide Perspective

Completion of this project will assist in maintaining the state's infrastructure of roadways and railways that are imperative to the success of these rural areas. Flood damages in these areas repeatedly impair water quality and threaten the state's fish and animal populations, including some endangered or threatened species. Economic opportunities for local residents will be enhanced by the reduction of sediment left by frequent flooding on profitable agricultural lands.

### For More Information

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Construction of site L-146a in the watershed was completed in the fall of 2008. A total of 297 similar structures are needed in this watershed to complete the entire project. To date, 81 structures have been completed and the Recovery Act funding will allow the construction of additional structures.

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